NEWS AND VIEWS.

Kentucky's Coming Event.

GOV. J. C. W. BECKHAM MISS JEAN FUQUA, OWENSBORO.

Gov. J. C. W. Beckham, the youngest governor in the United States, will soon marry Miss Jean Fuqua, one of Kentucky's handsomest girls. The wedding will take place at Owensboro, Ky., the home of the bride. The event will be of interest to every section of the south as the governor and his intended bride are known by everyone in that part of the country. The governor is now only 32 and Miss Fuqua is 21. The young couple are the descendants of two of Kentucky's oldest and most prominent families. Gov. Beckham's grandfather on his mother's side was a former chief executive of the Blue Grass state. Miss Fuqua's father is a wealthy tobacco merchant. Miss Fuqua is tall, has a dark complexion and is noted for her love of athletics.

Two More Islands.

A Spanish-American convention has been signed in Washington, by which two small islands, bearing the names of Cagayen and Cibotu, are ceded to the United States by Spain for $100,000. These islands lie at the southern and hottest extremity of the archipelago, being the tail end of the Sulu group. Cagayen lies in the passage from the China sea into the Sulu sea, and Cibotu lies between the Sulu and Celebes seas. Both properly belong to the Philippine archipelago and were supposed to be ceded to the United States by the Paris treaty. But the limits of the cession were designated by geographical lines and two little islands were afterward found to lie outside the boundary named in the treaty, though believed, owing to their position being given incorrectly on the maps, to be within them. They were of no use to Spain, but that government had the right to demand an extra compensation before turning them over to the United States. For this reason the full price of the archipelago in money may now be said to have been $20,100,000. The mistake of the commissioners has cost the extra amount, but the government has acted wisely in purchasing the stray islands and keeping the archipelago intact.

General Wesley Merritt found the Paris exposition not up to his expectations. He thinks that the principal defect was in organization, a respect in which the French fair was far inferior to that held in this city.

Railroad Tramp Nuisance.

The importance of the railroad tramp nuisance is indicated by the fact that it is made the subject of the leading article in the "investors' supplement" of the Commercial and Financial Chronicle, an issue of over 180 pages. The estimate of Josiah Flynn that 10,000 tramps steal rides nightly and 10,000 more are loitering around railroad yards is quoted, together with his estimate that each of the 60,000 tramps in the country travels on an average of fifty mils a day, which, for 100 days in the year, means 3,000,000 miles of free transportation annually, which at two cents a mile, would represent paying travel of $6,000,000. The free rides are, however, of slight importance compared with the extensive pilfering of freight and personal damage claims arising through accidents to tramps while trespassing. The Commercial and Financial Chronicle advises railroads to adopt the plan of the Pennsylvania road, which employs a regular force of eighty-three men to keep the cars and yards clear of the undesirable class. The success of the plan is shown in that the company pays $17,000 a year less for its police arrangements than before it adopted it. The adoption of the plan by all important roads would not only be of benefit to them but to the country. It is well known that most tramps are what they are partly because of hatred of work and partly because they like to travel. The removing of easy facilities for transportation would reduce the number enormously. The deserving poor may get free transportation at any time.

Japs Miss Hot Baths.

Apart from the trouble the Japanese have with fermenting rice, their staple rations in China, they experience considerable annoyance with their hot baths. Every Japanese soldier, when at home, is accustomed to a hot bath at least once a day. During a campaign like that which is now being conducted in the province of Chili, it is not always easy to prepare hot baths every morning for 80,000 men. The men feel very uncomfortable without their daily tub, but the Jap is brave and uncomplaining, and withal painstaking and ingenious enough to contrive means to compass this little bit of luxury in the field.—Correspondence Chicago Record.

Governor of Florida.

One representative of the Bryan family came out o fthe recent election victoriously and the governorship of Florida is the consolation prize that compensates the family for the loss of the presidency. Hon. W. S. Jennings, who was elected chief executive of the Peninsula State, is a native of Illinois, born March 24, 1863. He removed to Florida in 1866. He graduated from the Southern Illinois University and the Union Law College in Chicago, and has practiced law since his residence in Florida. He has been honored with many offices in Brooksville, where he resides, sat in the legislature and was speaker of the Lower House. He is a man of character and ability and his independence of thought and utterance is not unlike his more noted cousin.

HON. W. S. JENNINGS.

Guests Didn't Come.

Governor General and Lady Minto of Canada have been the victims of an awkward contretemps. They ordered the A. D. C. in waiting to send out 100 or so invitations. The cards were written and on the afternoon appointed the vice regal host and hostess were ready to receive their guests. The band played, the tea and coffee steamed away in the urns on the refreshment table, but nobody came. By four o'clock something was known to be wrong; then the A. D. C.'s were interrogated and it dawned upon one of them that he had forgotten to send out the cards.

Maharajah of Patiala.

The Maharajah of Patiala, noted as a polo player, a cricketer, a soldier and the chief Sikh prince of India, is dead. He was very popular with the British because of his loyalty to the empire and to the queen. Among the many rajahs of India the dead monarch ranked in the third class and was entitled to a salute of seventeen guns. The two grades of princes above him are entitled to salutes of nineteen and twenty-one guns respectively.

Patiala's last noteworthy act was his request to be allowed to go to South Africa and to evince his loyalty by personally fighting against the Boers. He visited London in 1897 to attend the jubilee of the queen and at the same time attracted much attention by the splendor of his dress and the importance of his retinue.

As illustrating the methods young men have of working their way through college, one of the Yale faculty cites the scheme of a party of students of that institution. Two of them made a trip to Europe last summer as hands on a cattle boat. Their experience, together with the pictures they took, forms the subject for a lecture on that topic, with stereopticon views, which they deliver at little towns about New Haven. A half dozen of their fellows have been formed into a banjo club, which plays during the entertainment.

MAHARAJAH OF PATIALA.

C. Oliver Iselin has yielded to the urgings of New York clubmen and will manage the yacht Columbia in trial races against the new defender of the America's cup. Mr. Iselin had announced his retirement from yachting life, but was induced to reconsider his determination.

The De Castellanes.

Count Boni de Castellane and his wife, the former Anna Gould, whose financial affairs are now the topic of table talk for two continents, are here presented as they appear in a new group photograph just taken in Paris. The countess, although a small woman, is almost as tall as her husband. Boni, if a little extravagant, is at least a brave man. This was shown by his encounter with the burly and ferocious editor of the Petite Republique, in which he severely wounded his opponent, who had written an insulting paragraph about him.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

Wheats and Spelts.

A communication from Prof. A. S. Hitchcock of the Kansas Agricultural College says: The wheats of the world are all referred by botanists to three species, which form a natural group among the grasses.

1. One-grained wheat (Triticum monococcum, L.) This wheat is of great antiquity as is shown by its presence in the Swiss Lake dwellings of the Stone age. It is now cultivated to a considerable extent in Spain and more rarely in some other countries of South Europe. It is not often used for bread, but for mush and "cracked wheat" and for fodder.

2. Polish wheat (Tr. Polonicum, L.) This did not originate in Poland, but probably in Spain. It is now grown in that country and also Italy and Abyssinia. The grain resembles rye. The heads are very large and of a blue-green color. The Polish wheat of Russia which is being introduced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and is being tried by the experiment stations of this country is not the true Polish wheat, but a variety of common wheat.

3. Common wheat and Spelt (Tr. sativum, Lam.) This group is divided into three races.

I. Spelt (Tr. Spelta, L.) This was anciently the chief grain of Egypt and Greece, and was commonly cultivated in the Roman empire. At present it is cultivated in a few localities in South Europe.

II. Emmer (Tr. dicoccum, Schrank.) This grain is cultivated more or less in countries of South Europe and in parts of Russia. Mr. M. A. Carleton of the United States Department of Agriculture has introduced varieties of this for trial. It was tried by the experiment station of the Kansas Agricultural College, but failed to mature. It is often called Russian spelt, but is different from the true spelt. In Russia it is sometimes used for making bread, but more often for gruel or porridge. This is advertised by the John A. Salzer Seed Company, under the name of "spelta." Seed obtained from that firm failed to produce a crop at the Kansas Experiment Station, only a few heads being formed and these not producing grain. Like the preceding group, the Emmers are characterized by the fact that the grain remains within the chaff when threshed. The heads are usually awned, but the awns (beards) are removed in the threshing.

III. True wheats. This race falls into four more or less well-marked sub-races.

a. English wheat (Tr. turgidum, L.) Leaves broad and usually clothed with velvety hairs. The grain is plump and truncate or cut off at the upper end. This wheat is cultivated in Mediterranean countries and more rarely in England. It is poor in gluten and makes a grayish flour. The so-called Miracle Egyptian or Mummy wheats (Tr. compositum, L.), form a group of varieties of this sub-race which originated as a sport. Their culture is not profitable, as the grains develop unequally.

b. Macaroni, Durum or Flint wheats (Tr. Durum, Desf.) The heads have long, bristly awns like barley. The grain is very hard and is used extensively for making macaroni and similar products. Grows in Mediterranean countries. In Russia it is used for making bread, mixed with 10 to 25 per cent of soft red wheat. The Kansas Experiment Station has some of these Russian varieties under trial.

c. Dwarf and Hedgehog wheat (Tr. compactum, Host.) These varieties are grown in the mountainous regions of Europe, Chili, Turkestan and Abyssinia, but are of little interest to us.

d. Common wheat (Tr. vulgare, Vill.) The varieties of this sub-race are the common forms cultivated in the United States and need no further description at this point. The soft wheats contain less gluten, the pronounced sorts, such as the English wheat mentioned above under (a), are better adapted for making starch than baking. The very hard kinds are over rich in gluten, and bread made from them is too firm. They are used for making macaroni, "cracked wheats" and mush. Several promising Russian varieties are being tried at the Kansas Experiment Station and were crossed this season with some of our best Kansas varieties.

Horticultural Observations.

According to consular reports from Germany the demand for American dried apples, peaches and raspberries is increasing. Consul General Mason at Berlin says, however, that to hold the market Americans must ship in large quantities of these things at moderate prices. That is going to be the trouble in the future as it has been in the past—the selling of our fruits low enough to hold the foreign markets. However, we have this to help us—the Europeans are accustomed to paying fairly high prices for their fruit.

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The next meeting of the Horticultural Society of Southern Illinois is to be held at Kinmundy, November 27 and 28. We hope that readers of the Farmers' Review will be present from all parts of the state. Southern Illinois has a great future as an apple growing section, and at this time even the orchard interests are so extensive that many of the great problems relative to orcharding are being worked out there. We feel sure that any Illinois grower of fruits will be well repaid for his attendance at the meeting.

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At this time of year, when so much fruit is going into cold storage both for long keeping and for transit, it is necessary that much attention be given to proper preparation of the fruit. We are, as yet, only at the threshhold of great things in this line. As yet we know little of what certain kinds of fruits will do under cold storage conditions. It will ultimately be found that different kinds of fruits require different temperatures to keep them at the best. Packers of fruits for cold storage have been frequently disappointed at the manner in which their fruits came out of storage, when the varieties have been other than the long-keeping sorts. Now the different companies and growers are experimenting to learn the requisites for each kind of fruit.

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Reports say that the investigations by the United States forestry commission show the wooded area of the country to be considerably greater than supposed. It has been of late years placed at about 26 per cent, but that figure has now been raised to 37 per cent. The fact is that people take little count of what is called annual forest growth. This, taking the country as a whole, means a very great increase every year. In the older settled states forest fires are less extensive now than before when the wooded areas were contiguous. So it happens that in some parts of the east, notably in Vermont and in Connecticut, the forests are as large and thrifty as they were a hundred years ago. If this is so during the present time, when we have applied little of forestry science to the handling of the forests, what will it be when we have learned to take care of our trees as we should?

Grass.

Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown like rural lanes, and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Beleaguered by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality, and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in its place and prevent its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea. It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates, and determines the history, character and destiny of nations. Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and the field, it bides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world.—John J. Ingalls.

Crimson Clover in the North.

A few years ago it was believed that crimson clover was a plant valuable for the North and for the South. After several years of rather extended experience the growers at the North, both on our farms and at our experiment stations have passed upon it adversely. It is a plant requiring a climate warmer than we can give it, and it also requires conditions for its growth such as seldom exist here. Where red clover can be grown to perfection it is impossible to put in any kind of a clover that will be more profitable. We would, however, encourage experimentation with it even in the North. It may be found of value in some localities far out of its natural latitude. In the South it has been little understood, and has quite often failed because the soil did not contain the germs necessary to its health. Where it has been sown on fields and has repeatedly failed we would suggest trying to inoculate the soil with water that has been drawn through soil taken from thrifty fields of red clover.

The Grape Crop of France.

A newspaper correspondent writing from Nimes, France, under date of Aug. 22d, said:

The annual wine sale which took place in this city yesterday brought together a large number of wine-growers and dealers. The prices were lower than at any time during the last thirty years. It is reported that wine has been offered during the last three weeks at as low as $1 per barrel. Large sales were made yesterday at $1.50, $2 and $3 per barrel of 110 quarts. The vines are weighed down with luscious fruit that is fast taking the last purple tinge and swelling to bursting under the sun. One grape-grower brought in a small vine yesterday to which hung ninety-five bunches of grapes, and this little overloaded branch of green and purple was a fair specimen of the average vineyard of today. The wine men in this section of France have but one cause for anxiety, and that is to find barrels in which to house the purple flood.

Saltpeter for Tree Killing.

Some time ago we saw in an Australian exchange a letter from a former resident of the United States telling about the practice of killing trees by the use of saltpeter. According to his statement the saltpeter was inserted in the tree while in the process of growth and while the leaves were still performing their function. A hole was bored in the tree and filled with saltpeter and water, after which the hole was plugged up. This saltpeter was carried to all parts of the tree. Then another hole was bored and more saltpeter inserted, which also was distributed through the tree. After the tree died it was set on fire and burned up root and branch, the saltpeter making it burn fiercely. We do not know how much of a fancy sketch this was, and if any of our readers have had experience in the matter we would like to hear from them.

Recently a discussion has been going on as to the power to destroy green stumps in this way. Some men say they bored holes in the stumps and put in the saltpeter and water, only to find afterward that the stump would not burn. Some others say the effect was to rot the stump, which could afterward be dug out easily. Up to date we have learned of no way that will deal with the stumps more effectively than does the stump puller. As to the burning up of trees that have been saturated with saltpeter, we think the time has gone past for that kind of operation. The time was when trees in this country were simply in the way and were destroyed in the shortest way possible. But now they are worth saving if only for fire-wood.

The Sod.

A farmer can have neither a good pasture nor a good meadow without a good sod. But the kind of sod he needs on his pasture is very different from the sod he needs in his meadow. We see in a contemporary a laudation of blue-grass sod for the pasture. But we know that blue grass sod is not the ideal sod for a pasture. It should be a part of the sod but not the whole thing. Blue grass makes good pasture at certain seasons, but during much of the time is below its prime. The pasture sod should most certainly be formed of a variety of grasses, so that grass will be making a good growth at all seasons when any grass could grow.

The sod for the meadow should of course be made of one kind of grass. The meadow is supposed to be for the production of hay and the hay crop is gathered at one time. But in both cases the sod should be well taken care of, should be well manured and not permitted to get thin. One of the great faults of our American farming is neglect of the sod in both pastures and meadows. In the sod lies much of the profit on the farm. We think if our farmers would keep a close account of the receipts from their sod lands they would pay more attention to them.

Hog Houses.

In the building of hog houses, if such houses are to be ideal, a number of important points must be taken into consideration. A writer on the subject of hog houses rightly says: "There is one point that is commonly lost sight of in hog growing, and that is that he is an animal to which sunshine is just as essential as it is to the corn plant. Neither corn nor pork can be produced successfully without plenty of sunshine. In the building of the hog house have it constructed in such a way that the sun will shine into it on the south and reach to the back of the pen and on the beds of the pigs." The house should be arranged on the inside so that there will be a free circulation of air between the pens. This is especially necessary in warm weather. The drainage should be such that the floor of the house will be always dry. The arrangements for removing the manure should be so perfect that it can be kept out of the way of the hogs at all times. The pens in the house should be constructed with the idea of often needing to change pigs from one pen to another. To accomplish some of these things it will be necessary to have much of the inside arrangement made movable. Swinging gates can be used to advantage.

Yields of Wheat.

That the average yield per acre of our wheat can be doubled under proper methods is demonstrated by the reports that we are constantly receiving from the agricultural colleges and the experiment stations. The average yield of wheat in the country at large is only about 13 bushels per acre, yet in some of our states where, because of deficient rainfall, the conditions for growing wheat are not of the best, the yields are far in excess of the average for the country. We notice that even in Oklahoma the yields as reported at the station are such that wheat raising is highly profitable. Yields of from 25 to 36 bushels to the acre are given as the results of their various experiments in handling the land for the wheat crop. What is done on a small scale can be quite generally done on a larger scale, and there is no good reason why the best methods should not be widely applied.

English and American Thoroughbreds.

The difference in the types of English and American thoroughbred horses has been set forth as follows: The English horse is taller, or leggier, as they say, then ours. He usually has more length and more quality; whereas the American thoroughbred has more substance, is more closely coupled—that is, shorter—and, as a rule, is a horse of better constitution and sounder, particularly in the wind, a "roarer" being a rare thing with us.